

The First Church

FAMILY

*The First Church in Albany • Founded in 1642
Reformed Church in America*

November 2018

WORSHIP:

4 All Saints Sunday (Communion)

10:30 am Sanctuary Service:
The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post Service: Journey Through the Psalms

11 Consecration Sunday

10:30 am Sanctuary Service:
The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching
Nat Phipps Jazz Trio
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post-service: Potluck and Search Committee Presentation

18 Thanksgiving Sunday

10:30 am Sanctuary Service:
The Rev. Dr. John Hubers, preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post Service: Journey Through the Psalms

25 Room for All Sunday

10:30 am Sanctuary Service:
The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching
Children & Worship (During Worship)
Post-service: Coffee & Conversation

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

At First Church, November 2018 will be filled with opportunities for all of us to give thanks!

We will give thanks for the **grace of God** offered in worship and our celebration of communion.

We will give thanks for the **saints who have gone before** us: for members of this church who have died in the past year, and also for others we love who have joined the great cloud of witnesses.

We will give thanks for **the past and also for the future** of First Church, as we present our pledges for our ministry in the coming year. Thanks are due to Ray Van Epps, who has dutifully collected figures from boards, committees and staff to create a draft budget for the Joint Boards, to Becky Mondore who created our stewardship logo, and to all sharing testimonies. Thanks as well to all will bring dishes to pass for our celebration potluck on November 11, when the Search Committee will reveal the church profile!

We will give thanks for the **work of missionaries**, and in particular for the ministry of the Rev. Dr. John Hubers, who serves in Ethiopia with his wife, Lynne, and will preach on November 18.

We will give thanks for the **bounty of the earth and the abundance God offers each of us**, as we collect food for the Thanksgiving baskets for our Food Pantry neighbors.

We will give thanks for being led to make **Room for All** in the life of First Church. On November 25, we hope you will be present to celebrate the unconditional love of God for all people, and the courageous welcome and affirmation of this congregation expressed in the diversity statement adopted by Consistory on March 16, 2010.

We will give thanks for all who give their time and talent to First Church, for the ongoing work of the Search Committee, for the dedication of our staff, for fall leaves and good rakes, for feasting and family and friends. This month, I will give thanks for the marriage of my son, Benjamin Carman to Shelli Brown, for the 88th birthday of my late father, and for all of you. For what will you give thanks?

Lynn

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Join us for the Pot Luck on November 11th to view First Church's Profile.

Monica Marsh, Chair
Norma Jean Ballou
Imani Brewer
Janet Conti
James Folts
Jean Lamere
Andrew Mondore
Jay Reohr
Ross Westhuis



AT HOME WITH THE WORD

**Daily Bible Readings from the Common Lectionary - www.rca.org/athome
November 1st – November 25th.**

1. All Saints Sunday; Solomon 3:1-9
2. Hebrews 9:11-14
3. Mark 12:28-34
4. Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
5. Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
6. Psalm 127
7. 1 Kings 17:8-16
8. Psalm 146
9. Hebrews 9:24-28
10. Mark 12:38-44
11. Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
12. 1 Samuel 1:4-20
13. Daniel 12:1-3
14. 1 Samuel 2:1-10
15. Psalm 16
16. Hebrews 10:11-25
17. Mark 13:1-8
18. Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
19. 2 Samuel 23:1-7
20. Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
21. Psalm 132:1-12
22. Thanksgiving Day; Psalm 126
23. Revelation 1:4-8
24. John 18:33-37
25. Christ the King Sunday
26. Psalms
27. Jeremiah 33:14-16
28. Psalm 25:1-10
29. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
30. Luke 21: 25-36

REV. CAMERON MONTHLY BRUNCH

Rev. Bill Cameron began gathering a group for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. The group continues to meet each month at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Avenue in Albany. Anyone can join us starting at 12:15pm and stay until you wish to leave. Each person pays for their own meal. Contact Donna E. Schultz at deschultz07@aol.com or (518) 429-1255.

JEFFREY CURRY UPDATE

Jeff Curry is recovering comfortably at home with his mother in Albany. He is receiving Occupational and Physical Therapy and visits from Visiting Nurses, as well as outpatient treatment. Jeff appreciates our prayers, and cards can be sent to him at 36 New Hope Terrace, Albany, NY 12204.

FOCUS CORNER

Half way through the benefit month of October, we are excited to announce the FOCUS Hannaford Helps Fight Hunger Bag sales so far.

From October 1, 2018 through October 18, 2018, 55 Fight Hunger Bags sold which equals a \$55.00 donation to The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry!
Great job!

Don't forget to visit the Hannaford store at the 96 Wolf Road, Windsor Plaza, Colonie location before the end of the month and purchase the Fight Hunger Bag!

Every bag purchase generates a \$1 donation to The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry.

Questions? Please contact Morgan Palmer - Program Director at 603.380.9400 x105 or morganp@bags4mycause.com or visit hannaford.bags4mycause.com.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

In September, the First Church Food Pantry was open a total of seven days. We welcomed twelve new households (17 people) to the total number of clients served: 215 people. Each person received eighteen meals. Can you imagine preparing 3,870 meals in one week's time? That's what our super volunteers - First Church members and friends - and staff did in September! Stop by some Monday or Wednesday morning to thank them for reaching out in Christ's name to feed our hungry neighbors on our behalf.

We are also excited to share that the Food Pantry has received two grants in October: \$1000 from the CROP Walk and \$3800 from HPNAP (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program). Thanks are due to Lorraine Houk, Food Pantry Manager, for filing the grant applications. We hope to be able to announce a couple more grants next month.

NO NOVEMBER WEATHERVANES



Because the third Wednesday in November falls the day before Thanksgiving when most people are busy preparing for the holiday there will be no Weathervanes meeting in November.

The annual Christmas party will be on Wednesday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m. in Zimmerman Hall. There will be a chicken marsala dinner, music and stories. Cost is \$15.00 and reservations and money must be in to Audrey Ming (518-456-5485) by November 25th.

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY



THROUGH THE PSALMS

Find light for your path, wisdom for your way, and inspiration for your days

Bible Study and Conversation, will meet November 4th & 18th, and December 2nd & 16th, after worship. Please join us any Sunday(s). No books or preparation needed



Glenmont Community Church will celebrate 60 years as a congregation. You're invited to join us for an Open House on Saturday, **November 3** from 1:00 - 3:00.

Through displays and shared stories, we are honoring ministries past, remembering that it is the labor of others who came before us that enables us to be a presence in our community [today](#).

We are celebrating current ministries and new opportunities to be the body of Christ here and now. There is so much happening in the life of this small, but vibrant congregation: a new Youth Group, Second Sunday Speakers, an active Singles Group, Bible education, ministries that connect us with the South End Children's Café, the Veterans' Miracle Center, Venture Food Pantries, and so much more! Come, share our joy as we give thanks and praise our God!

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

This thanksgiving season we will be providing the food for a thanksgiving meal for many of the families served by our food pantry. On Sunday, November 18th, many of us will stay for a few minutes after worship to help pack the food baskets that will be distributed to families in our area. Also, on that Sunday you are invited to come to worship with gifts of food items. This year instead of providing a thanksgiving turkey to each family, we are providing gift cards enabling them to purchase their own. On Tuesday, November 20th we will be distributing the Thanksgiving Baskets from 9:00 to 11:30 am.

Donations of other food items are needed including:

- cake mix
- carrots
- celery
- hot cocoa mix
- stuffing
- yams
- sweet potatoes
- gravy
- apples
- onions
- potatoes
- canned fruit
- fresh items


SPECIAL MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER

November 4, Guest Musician, Jacqueline Wright, flute - All Saints Sunday

Jackie holds numerous degrees in flute performance including a MM in flute performance from the University of Michigan. She has performed, taught and led workshops both nationally and locally on the flute and on orchestral conducting, and has a local flute studio. She has played several times at First Church including performing a Spring Fling Concert here.

November 11 – The Nate Phipps Jazz Trio – Consecration Sunday

The trio, well-known in the Capital District, has played in many area venues including here at First Church, at Schenectady First Reformed church's Jazz Vespers and at the annual Albany Jazz Festival. Nat Phipps, pianist and educator was originally from Newark, New Jersey, where he spent most of his early professional years playing in New York City and New Jersey. Joining him will be drummer, Joe Sorrentino and Pete Toigo on bass. We are delighted that they can join us!



First Church in Albany. Consecration Sunday

*Special Music
with the
Nat Phipps
Jazz Trio*

CONSECRATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 at 10:30

110 North Pearl Street

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

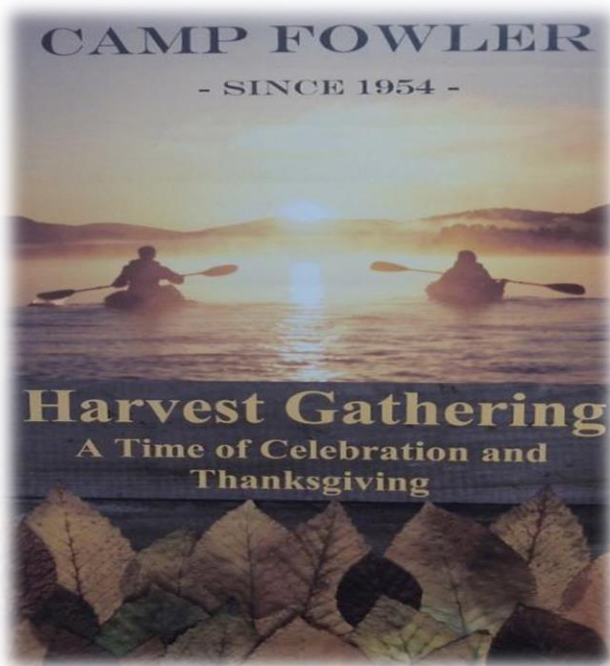
CHILDREN & WORSHIP



As we enter another year of offering this great program to families we want to get the word out about it. We have just launched a Facebook page which can be found here at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChildrenandWorshipatFC>.

We hope you will consider "liking" the page and sharing this with families and friends you know with young children. We offer a program for children 4-7 and 8-12 and we want the community to know about this amazing program right here at First Church!
Kim Gattie.

10TH ANNUAL HARVEST GATHERING



TO BENEFIT CAMP FOWLER

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 5, 2018
@ 6PM**

**GLEN SANDERS MANSION
SCOTIA, NY 12302**

Contact Jay Reohr if you would like to be a part of the First Church table.

Email: jayr3@aol.com

It's Overflow Shelter Dinner time again! Can you help?

Our first dinners are:

- November 9th (**Italian**)
- December 14th (**Chili**)

CAN YOU?

- contribute a main dish, side dish or dessert for 6-8 people
- deliver the meal to the shelter on Friday afternoon or evening.

SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE AT THE HOSPITALITY TABLE.

Bring your dishes to church any day from 8:30-1:00 pm, Thursday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 pm or Friday before noon. We'll deliver them to the shelter on Friday afternoon. USE NON-RETURNABLE DISHES and **clearly label all pork dishes**. Questions? Contact Mary Bon (518-463-4449) or maryebon@verizon.net.

The Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church in Albany, sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches, is a "shelter of last resort" when other shelters are full or for those not be eligible for other shelters because of addictions or mental health issues. It is open during the winter months and turns nobody away. First Church has been providing meals each month for the Shelter since 2008.



JOHN HUBERS

On Sunday, November 18, the Rev. Dr. John Hubers will be with us as preacher to share about his ministry as an RCA missionary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Currently, John serves with his wife, Lynne at the Mekane Yesus seminary. He has been called there to teach and to help revive a program in Christian/Muslim relations that was first started in 2002. Having worked in the Middle East after college, John has a passion and calling for interreligious mission. He has worked in leadership development in relation to the challenge of equipping the church for the development of positive relations with our Muslim neighbors. The Hubers are supported in their ministry, in part, by First Church's designated mission gift.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION MEMORIALS

This year the Worship, Music and Arts Commission invites you to remember loved ones and honor friends by contributing toward the costs of decorating the entire church: poinsettias, wreaths, garlands, bows and all! In the past, costs have totaled as much as \$1800, and any contribution you make will be helpful.

If you would like to order a poinsettia as a memorial to be shared with a homebound member or friend, or to take after Christmas to decorate your home, orders need to be placed by **Monday, December 3, 2018**. Please send a note or call the Church office (518) 463-4449 to order the flowers, to designate your memorial, and to indicate if you would like to share or take the plant. A minimum donation of \$10.00 per plant is required.

Checks should be payable to **First Church in Albany** (Note: Christmas Decorations/Poinsettias).

FIRST CHURCH READERS MEETS DECEMBER 9TH



Like to read? First Church Readers are a group of people who love to read. Each month we read a different book and get together on a Sunday to discuss it. We will be meeting on December 9th. Come join us.

December's book is *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy. More than 10,000 girls were recruited to do the secret work of breaking codes in WW II. Their work was forgotten and their sacrifices were unsung until this highly readable, well researched and documented story.

January 2019

A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding: A Novel by Jackie Copleton

Follow a family from prewar Japan through the utter horror of August 9, 1945 to the struggle to adapt to post war life. Explore themes of heartbreak, guilt and family secrets, and get a glimpse into Japanese culture and traditions before, during and after WW II.

February

Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman – A simultaneously hilarious and heartbreaking story of a young woman finding herself.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AT 10:15 AM EACH SUNDAY IN ADVENT BEGINNING DECEMBER 2ND

Each Sunday during Advent we have special music at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. Come to worship early to relax, refresh yourself, and prepare again for the coming of Christ.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

On Sunday, December 2nd at 3:30 pm, G. F. Handel's *Messiah* will be performed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State Street, Albany, with St. Peter's Choir (Neil Keen, conductor), soloists, chamber orchestra and organ (Mary Bon, organist). Come hear the prophecies and Christmas story through the ageless music of Handel. The concert is free, but there will be a free will offering.

CLEEO AND FRIENDS

THANK YOU to the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District, sponsors of the Nipper sculptures project, who allowed First Church to keep Cleeo, rather than auctioning off the dog who has graced Cleo Park these past two years. Thank you again to Jeanne Bianchine, who spear-headed the Cleo project and related Cleo to our Food Pantry, and to Jeff Curry, whose vision of how we could serve the community became Cleo's Hotdogs.

Among the fifteen sculptures that were auctioned was Frida Fido, designed by First Church Coordinator of Social Media Betsy Gorman. Frida Fido was purchased by RCA Records, along with 3 other Nippers, to grace their Global Headquarters on Madison Ave. in NYC.

Here she is with her new pack, hand-picked by RCA CEO Peter Edge. These hardworking celebrity pups will be meeting and greeting a dizzying range of RCA recording artists in their new role as RCA Mascots.



FIRST CHURCH FACILITIES ARE USED AND AVAILABLE FOR USE

First Church has a large facility with various spaces that are convenient for groups of various sizes, with ample parking and a convenient location in downtown Albany. Each year several groups receive permission to use our facility. Such requests are approved by the Building Use Committee, composed of members of Leadership and the Treasurer. First Church charges fees to cover out-of-pocket expenses, though the fees are waived for an RCA or FOCUS-related event. A higher fee schedule applies to for-profit organizations. In addition, tours are offered to groups that are interested in First Church's history and architecture. And many individual visitors from places near and far come to First Church unscheduled, and are welcome to take a self-guided tour of our historic sanctuary.

Here is a list of significant building use during the year 2018 so far:

1. S.H.A.R.E - Sheridan Hollow Association for Renewable Energy - February 20, 2018.
2. National Preservation Trust - historical architecture tour - May 5, 2018.
3. Dutch Settlers Society - historical tour - April 12, 2018 (Society has met at First Church since its founding in 1924).
4. ABC Studios - television cast assembly point - July 17 thru July 20, 2018.
5. Swartwout Family Association - historical tour - September 1, 2018.
6. Albany County Board of Elections - polling place - September 13, 2018 and November 6, 2018.
7. Alcoholics Anonymous - Wednesdays at noon.
8. Taste of Troy Food Tours, LLC. - most Fridays 1:30 pm-1:50 pm - May thru October 2018.

If you know of a group that would like to use our facility, please refer them to Valerie Williams, Parish Administrator, for further information. Making our facilities available for varied uses and groups is part of good stewardship and our outreach to the community and city of Albany.

SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM

The new sanctuary sound system is nearly complete. Before we reconvened worship in the sanctuary in September the front speakers were moved forward to prevent feedback that happened when any microphones were used in front of them. In mid-October, we received four new microphones: two which can be used on mic stands at the lectern or elsewhere, and two with headsets for worship leaders. All of these changes have enhanced our sound system greatly. In addition, we have a new equalizer/mixer in the sound case which is easier to adjust to speakers, and the choir microphones are being adjusted. Thank you again to all who helped on this project!

JOINING FIRST CHURCH

Does it feel like First Church could be your church home? Might you consider membership? If so, please talk with Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, Rev. Sue Vincent-Cox, or one of the Elders to find out more. We'll be holding our next new member class after the first of the year. We'd love to welcome you officially!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 11

We will be receiving your intent-to-give (pledge) cards during worship on November 11, and celebrating everyone's generosity at a potluck luncheon after worship. What are you able to offer this year to REBUILD – RECONNECT – RE-ENERGIZE – RECLAIM First Church's ministry in 2019? Your gifts multiplied in God's hands make a difference!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATE

We plan to move to an online newsletter beginning December 2018. If we do not have your email address, please send it to Valerie Williams at vwilliams@firstchurchinalbany.org. If you do not have an email address we will mail you a paper copy of the monthly newsletter.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CANCELLED

The Christmas Pageant prosed for Dec. 15th and 16th in partnership with First Church in Albany has been cancelled. The Planning Committee did not find enough support in either church to carry the project through. Many thanks to those who did come forward and offer to participate, specially the choirs. The Committee hopes that the project might succeed in a future year.

Thanks much,
Edith & Ian Leet

THANK YOU NOTES

Greetings Congregation and Friends of First Church,

Thank you for the beautiful stole designed and stitched by Cindy Barton, Becky Mondore's sister. Cindy is a friend of mine and I have long admired her quilts and wall hangings so this gift from you by her is very special. To receive it on a Sunday when I was able to lead worship and be with you in person makes it extra special and personal. You are forever with me as I wear my stole and am reminded of your love and care.

I also thank you for our many years of ministry and memories that we have shared. You are the church of my youth through early adult years and I have learned and been trained by a great cloud of witnesses. As you move through this time of transition, embracing an historical past, sitting in the present making decisions, imagining and praying about where God is bringing you, I keep you in my prayers as you search for your next pastor.

Thank you and peace be with you,

Rev. Betsy (Dorn) Westman

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



10/01/2018
Thank you so much for letting me
tour your beautiful church. I really
appreciate Valerie Williams's help in
setting up the visit. Special thanks to
Thom & Alison's expertise and to the
fact that he took the time to show me
around and tell me more about the
church's history. Attached a check for
Robert Alexander's Albany's First Church.
Best wishes, Andrea Mosterman

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dear Friends at First Church in Albany,

Because of your very faithful and generous support, more and more future pastors are being prepared for ministry. Thank you!

We thank God for you, and for your investment in the future pastors whom are being trained and sent because of your partnership.

Blessings,

Dea Pence

JOINT BOARDS

Deacons (5)

Andy Mondore (Sr)

Theresa Brewer

Bill Kendall

Bob Dorn (Asst. Sr)

Richard Gardner

Elders (6)

Norma Jean Ballou (Asst. Sr.)

Pete Pagerey (Sr.)

Joeanna Brown

Chip Welge

Becky Hudak

Becky Mondore

Trustees (9)

Jim Folts (Pres)

Ross Weshuis (VP)

Shirley Bone

Ray Van Epps

David Bradley

Joyce Recene

Ned Monthie

Wayne Sivaslian

Andy Mondore



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RETURN SERVICE REQUIRED